

Press Release



CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz

Press Release #4/23, 4 April 2023

- [Opening Films 2023](#)
- [Anniversary Pic\[k\]s & Anniversary Open Air \(4/20\)](#)
- [VOD Partner Collections: KINO VOD CLUB, filmfriend.at, Flimmit & ÖBB Railnet](#)
- [YAAAS! Close-Up, Workshop Rally & Youth Jury](#)
- [Nightline: Line-Up 2023](#)

The 20th edition of CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz takes place from 26 April to 1 May. In today's press release, we are announcing the four **opening films**. In addition, to mark the festival anniversary, we will also present two highlights from the early years of CROSSING EUROPE on the big screen again as **Anniversary Pic[k]s**. One of them as a **free-entry** festival kick-off during an **open-air screening** at **Lentos Kunstmuseum** on the Donaulände on **April 20**.

Also, **CROSSING EUROPE @HOME** once again provides the opportunity to experience a piece of the festival at home or on the go with **VOD offers** on **KINO VOD CLUB**, **filmfriend**, **Flimmit** and on the **ÖBB Railnet**. We are also releasing new info on the YAAAS! Youth Program, with details on the **YAAAS! Close-Up, Workshop Rally**, and the **Youth Jury**. The nightly party atmosphere during the festival is provided by live acts and DJs at the **Nightline** on the OK Deck, whose line-up you can find in this release.

Aside from that, we would like to point out the following dates: Our **program press conference** takes place on Tuesday, **13 April**, at the Movimiento Linz and will also be available as a stream on the festival website, the complete **festival program** will be available online from **14 April**, and **ticket sales** start on **17 April**.

Opening Films on 26 April 2023

CROSSING EUROPE 2023 will once again open with four films that are a representative cross-section of this year's festival program and, with their thematic and artistic diversity, stand for the richness of European cinema. Moreover, films from almost all program sections can be seen on opening day already from 4 p.m.

With her Berlinale competition entry **20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS** | 20,000 SPECIES OF BEES, Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren delivers an impressive feature film debut, for which the only eight-year-old **Sofía Otero** was awarded the **Silver Bear** for Best Leading Performance. The highly topical and evocative documentary **SHIDNIY FRONT** | EASTERN FRONT by **Vitaly Mansky** and **Yevhen Titarenko** shows the brutality of the war in Ukraine in gloomy footage directly from the front. Tribute guest **Angeliki Papoulia** shines with her impressive performance in **Syllas Tzoumerkas's** drama **A BLAST**, which drastically reflects the effects of the Greek financial crisis of the 2010s on the population. The *Night Sight* program section kicks off with **SVĚTLONOC** | NIGHTSIREN, where director **Tereza Nvotová** breaks down the classical witch narrative in the context of patriarchal structures and misogyny.

After the opening films, our audience is warmly invited to wind down the evening at the **Nightline** on the **OK Deck** with live act **Euroteuro**.

Press Release

**20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS | 20,000 SPECIES OF BEES**

(ES 2023) – Austrian premiere

Directed by: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren

Program section: European Panorama Fiction; length: 129 min. | feature film

Guests: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren (director): 4/27 – 4/30, additional guest invited to the opening

Distribution in Austria: [Panda Lichtspiele Filmverleih](#); planned theatrical release: June 2023

An eight-year-old is suffering because people keep addressing the child in ways that cause discomfort. They insist on calling the child by the birth name Aitor. And the nickname, Cocó, even if less obviously wrong, does not feel right either. During a summer in the Basque country, the child confides these worries to relatives and friends. But how can a mother handle her child's quest for identity when she is herself still dealing with her own ambivalent parental legacy? Basque director Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren's debut feature is a sunny drama. By adopting more than one point of view, Urresola is respecting the incredible complexity that is gender identity, and touching on one perhaps less obvious aspect of transitioning: your mentality. (Berlinale)

SHIDNIY FRONT | EASTERN FRONT

(LV/UA/CZ/US 2023) – Austrian premiere

Directed by: Vitaly Mansky, Yevhen Titarenko

Program section: European Panorama Documentary; length: 98 min. | documentary

Guests: Vitaly Mansky (director), Yevhen Titarenko (director; invited)

Kyiv, August 24, 2022, Ukraine's Independence Day. A burnt-out tank on a deserted street. Half a year has passed since the whole world became aware of Russia's attack. It actually began in 2014, but many did not perceive it as such at the time. This is also explained by the voice in the commentary that belongs to Vitaly Mansky. The other director, Yevhen Titarenko, captures an insider's images which reveal precisely what (this) war means. He has been with the "Hospitaliers" volunteer medical battalion since 2014 and is now on full duty. At times disturbingly raw and direct, yet always enlightening, this film shows in close-up how a nation is fighting for its survival. (Berlinale)

A BLAST

(GR/DE/NL 2014)

Directed by: Syllas Tzoumerkas

Program section: Tribute Angeliki Papoulia; length: 83 min. | feature film

Guests: Angeliki Papoulia (leading actor) & Syllas Tzoumerkas (director)

Maria is on the run. Behind her, fire and a briefcase full of money. In front of her, the hopeless vastness of the motorway. Only a day before, she was a caring mother, a loving wife, a responsible daughter. Today, she has gone rogue. Set in the fervent years of the collapse of the Greek economy, A BLAST tells the story of a generation's disillusionment and radicalization. Maria starts her adult life with the best of intentions. Ten years after, no matter where she looks, her world is cracking up. Unwilling to reconcile with a life of unreciprocated care, lost dignity, and broken-down desire to live, Maria attacks. (Crossing Europe)

SVĚTLONOC | NIGHTSIREN

(SK/CZ 2022) – Austrian premiere

Directed by: Tereza Nvotová

Program section: Night Sight; length: 109 min. | feature film

Guests: invited

Press Release



All the typical trappings of witchcraft – the naked moonlit rituals, the familiar relationship with wolves and snakes, the sexual abandon, the knowledge and use of herbs, the concealed baldness, the mutated or murdered livestock, the dancing around bonfires, the missing children – are present and correct in NIGHTSIREN, but are mostly rationalised and all reconfigured as something harmless. For this is a film less about female malefactors than about the villagers' patriarchal structures and deep-seated misogynies (some internalised by the local women themselves) which suppress difference and readily blame innocent women. (Anton Bitel, Projected Figures)

Anniversary Pic[k]s: Open Air on 20 April & European Panorama Specials

To mark the festival anniversary, two highlights from the early years that reflect the spirit of CROSSING EUROPE will be shown again on the big screen: The very first opening film, the 2004 documentary **ÜBER EINE STRASSE | ABOUT A STREET** by **Edith Stauber** and **Michaela Mair**, is a long-term observation of urban life in Linz. The film will not only be shown in the *European Panorama Special* section, but also as a kick-off prior to the start of the festival, a **CROSSING EUROPE open-air film event** (free entry) at Lentos Kunstmuseum on **20 April, 8 p.m.** The jointly developed omnibus movie **LOST AND FOUND** (CE05) gathers six directors who back then were considered "new voices" of European cinema, some of whom rank among the award-winning big names of the European film industry today: **Stefan Arsenijević**, **Nadejda Koseva**, **Mait Laas**, **Kornél Mundruczó**, **Cristian Mungiu**, and **Jasmila Žbanić**. The film will also be presented in the *European Panorama Special* section.

Anniversary Pic[k]s:

- ❖ **ÜBER EINE STRASSE | ABOUT A STREET** (AT 2004; opening film CROSSING EUROPE 2004), 94 min, directed by: Edith Stauber, Michaela Mair
Upfront as Anniversary Open Air on 4/20 and at the festival in the European Panorama section
Guest: Edith Stauber (director)

In 2003, Edith Stauber and Michaela Mair Jahr spent one year observing the colorful life in different speeds, in different cultures, in different parallel worlds on Dametzstraße in Linz – a typical throughfare already back in the day.

Anniversary Open Air info: 20 April, 8 p.m., Lentos Freiraum, free entry, alternative date in case of bad weather: 21 April – in cooperation with [Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz](https://www.lentos.at/)

- ❖ **LOST AND FOUND** (opening film CROSSING EUROPE 2005), overall length: 99 min
in the European Panorama section

In this omnibus film, six personal "generational stories" meld into a multifaceted stocktaking of the system transformation from communism to capitalism in Eastern Europe.

- **GENE+RATIO** (Mait Laas, DE/EE 2005)
- **THE RITUAL** (Nadejda Koseva, DE/BG 2005)
- **TURKEY GIRL** (Cristian Mungiu, DE/RO 2005)
- **BIRTHDAY** (Jasmila Žbanić, DE/BA 2005)
- **SHORTLASTING SILENCE** (Kornél Mundruczó, DE/HU 2005)
- **FABULOUS VERA** (Stefan Arsenijević, DE/CS 2005)

Press Release



CROSSING EUROPE @HOME: VOD Partner Collections

As a service to all those who cannot personally visit the festival, there is once again an attractive offer for at home and on the go with **CROSSING EUROPE @HOME**. It includes selected **VOD partner collections** with films from the 2023 program and previous CROSSING EUROPE editions:

filmfriend.at | from 4 April

filmfriend.at (VOD platform for libraries and universities) presents a selection of **films from previous festival editions** in co-operation with the [City Library of Linz](#). The anniversary collection curated by filmfriend is dedicated to guests of the Tribute section like Angeliki Papoulia, Sergei Loznitsa, Nanouk Leopold & Stienette Bosklopper and includes more than 20 additional feature and documentary films. With **BROWNIAN MOVEMENT** (NL/DE/BE 2010; CE11) & **UNDER THE SKIN** (GB/US 2013; CE14) and others. From April 4 on <https://www.filmfriend.at/collections/crossing-europe> (free of charge for members of affiliated libraries).

Flimmit | from 26 April

Beginning at the start of the 20th CROSSING EUROPE, **Flimmit** presents handpicked films from 19 years of festival history. The selection includes feature and documentary films, audience favorites, and award-winning works. From 26 April on [flimmit.at/crossing-europe/collections/26](https://www.flimmit.at/crossing-europe/collections/26).

KINO VOD CLUB | 1 – 31 May

From 1 May to 31 May, **five festival films** from the **CROSSING EUROPE 2023 program** will be available to the Austrian audience on the domestic streaming platform KINO VOD CLUB. Lively, cosmopolitan, multilingual and diverse. Among others with: **ELAHA** (DE 2023; YAAAS! Competition 2023) by Milena Aboyan and **NAJSREKNIOT ČOVEK NA SVETOT – NAJSRETNJI ČOVJEK | THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD** (MK/BE/SI/DK/HR/BA 2022; European Panorama Fiction 2023) by Teona Strugar Mitevska. All films of the VOD selection on [crossingeurope.at](https://www.crossingeurope.at) & [vodclub.online](https://www.vodclub.online) (in Austria only).

ÖBB Railjet | 1 May to 30 June

Two highlights from the 2021 festival program will turn the ride on the ÖBB Railjet into a mobile film experience: Maria Schrader's unconventional romantic comedy **ICH BIN DEIN MENSCH | I'M YOUR MAN** (DE 2021; CE21; **on the ÖBB Railjet from 1 – 31 May**) and the poetic coming-of-age drama with science-fiction elements, **GAGARINE** (FR 2020; CE21; **on the ÖBB Railjet from 1 – 30 June**).

YAAAS! Close-Up, Workshop Rally & Youth Jury

YAAAS! Close-Up: YOUKI Goes YAAAS! is an event organized within the YAAAS! Youth Program at CROSSING EUROPE, presented in co-operation with [YOUKI International Youth Media Festival](#). The event **invites** young **filmmakers** to offer the audience a glimpse into their work in the film sector during an open discussion format. This year's guests are **Brigitta Kanyaro** (* 1991, director, actor) and **Michael Schindegger** (* 1981, cinematographer, director). YAAAS! Close-Up takes place on **30 April 2023, 4 p.m.**, on the **OK Deck**, and the event is also available for viewing via **livestream** on [crossingeurope.at](https://www.crossingeurope.at).

Press Release



Another component of the Youth Program is the **YAAAS! Workshop Rally**. On **27 April 2023**, the choice is between **four workshops with a practical orientation** that present topics like flip-book transitions, coding, or movie trick basics. The complete workshop program as well as details on the workshop instructors can be found [HERE](#). The YAAAS! Workshop Rally is supported by [OeAD \(Agency for Education and Internationalisation\)](#) and the [Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research](#).

Also, we are happy to present this year's **YAAAS! Youth Jury**, who will give out the Award – YAAAS! Youth Jury (€ 3,000 powered by [VdFS](#)) to one of the seven films of the YAAAS! Competition. The five jury members all attend the VSG AusbildungsFit FACTORY: **Alena Decker** (age 17, apprentice at VSG), **Yvonne Horvath** (age 17), **Emelie Lindtner** (age 19), **Mimi Pondi** (age 18), and **Katharina Zehetner** (age 18).

Nightline 2023

CROSSING EUROPE will celebrate its 20th anniversary til late at night: At the Nightline on the OK Deck, festival audiences and film guests from all over Europe gather on the dancefloor, with selected live acts and DJs setting the right mood on five evenings. The music program was curated once again by **Samira Saad and Christian Haselmayr**. From April 26 to 30, the Nightline Bar on the OK Deck will be open already from 8 p.m. **Entry is free**, further info on the Nightline can be found [HERE](#).

26 April, WEDNESDAY
22:30 live: Euroteuro

27 April, THURSDAY
22:30 DJ: YAAAS! Disco | Young Programmers on the Decks

28 April, FRIDAY
23:00 live: Average x Raddish
DJ: Seba Kayan

29 April, SATURDAY
23:00 live: Kimyan Law
DJ: HANNA x D!ZZY

30 April, SUNDAY
23:00 DJ: push – Female DJ Network: Mischa Beton & Caniche

Festival dates: [April 26 to May 1, 2023](#) | **Press conference 2023:** [Thursday, April 13, 10:00 a.m., Linz](#)

Logo & Festival Motif 2023: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/downloads>

Film Stills & Festival Impressions: <https://www.crossingeurope.at/en/press/photos>

Regular updates and current information on CROSSING EUROPE 2023 can, as always, be found on our website <http://www.crossingeurope.at/en> and on our social media channels [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).